

# October 2005 Internet Survey 2006-08 Hunting Season Issues

Total Surveys Submitted: 2023

Rank	Issues	Total Responses
1	Consider making a single elk tag statewide.	783
2	Create additional November 1-18 late buck permits for mule deer.	431
3	Consider allowing 70+ year old hunters to have a hunting companion similar to the rules for hunters with disabilities.	402
4	Delete the muzzleloader requirement for the ignition system being exposed to the elements	391
5	Consider strategies for improving the odds of being drawn for bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and moose permits.	384
6	Delete the 65 percent let-off for archery	357
7	Review the necessity of antler point restrictions for mule deer and whitetails.	318
8	Allow optics for muzzleloader hunters	315
9	Use the second tag option for more antlerless deer tags in eastern Washington.	293
10	Consider a special season outside of the general season dates for youth only deer hunting (accompanied by adult).	286
11	Consider "traditional" weapon seasons for the potential to increase the number of days in a season e.g. long bows, flintlocks, and pre-1945 modern firearms (w/o scopes)	280
12	Allow shot shell or other closed primers for muzzleloaders	279
13	Consider quality mule deer management strategies in Chelan and Okanogan counties.	277
14	Need to pursue some creative options to address damage, like paying farmers for access in lieu of damage payments.	257
15	Look at expanding the days available for the muzzleloader general season	254
16	Create additional September (permit) hunting opportunities for modern firearm elk hunters in eastern Washington.	248
17	Make the entire state spike only for elk and manage harvest of mature bulls through permits.	241
18	Lengthen the spring turkey season.	234
19	Restrict electronic calls and decoys	232
20	Expand the Canada goose seasons in southwest Washington.	226
21	Expand spring black bear hunting to address property damage.	223
22	Develop attractive seasons that encourage more modern firearm hunters to switch to primitive weapons.	222
23	Extend the mourning dove season to 30 days.	218
24	Expand fall turkey seasons including overlaps with other seasons.	215
25	Consider potential harvest impacts of adding weekdays (3) to the end of the modern firearm elk season.	213

Rank	Issues	Total Responses
26	Revise the rules for use of dogs to hunt other game species.	208
27	Open the Colockum for archery general season antlerless elk hunting.	207
28	Evaluate additional road closure strategies to improve deer and elk harvest management.	204
29	Consider allocation of mountain goat, bighorn sheep, and moose permits by weapon type.	195
30	Continue to look for youth opportunity e.g., provide archery or muzzleloader permits/opportunity to encourage participation.	176
31	Reverse the declining buck ratios in Douglas and Okanogan counties.	172
32	Allow winter hunting of cougars for boot (non-dog) hunters in areas with dog seasons.	170
33	Reconsider whether the special deer and elk tag incentive for hunter education instructors is the right kind of incentive	159
34	Better define firearm restriction areas and clarify the weapons that can be used	155
35	Increase antlerless white-tailed deer harvest in NE Washington.	154
36	Consider re-establishing a bighorn permit in the Blue Mtns and on Hall Mtn.	150
37	Need to strongly consider the use of all weapon types for damage hunts.	149
37	Create a separate fall turkey tag.	149
39	Allow exceptions for qualifying hunters with disabilities to equipment regulations as determined by conditions developed by the department	137
39	Open the black bear season in GMUs 101-117 on August 1st.	137
41	Allow hunters with disabilities to assist hunters with removing harvested big game in road closure areas.	131
42	Develop quality/limited entry pheasant hunting opportunity.	129
43	Evaluate elk hunt in the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge.	125
44	Address the conflicts between Colockum elk herd management objectives and high antlerless harvest due to damage management.	124
45	Address declining deer numbers in GMUs 560, 572, 578, and 588.	123
46	Evaluate providing mtn goat permits in currently closed areas of northeast Cascades.	121
47	Allow youth hunters to take antlerless white-tailed deer during the late season as well as the general season rather than extending the antlerless season a few days.	119
48	Delete the 300 grain minimum for arrow weight	116
48	Evaluate added opportunities from 2003-05 to determine if total hunter numbers increased with the opportunities or just shifted users.	116
50	Increase the number of quality/limited entry waterfowl hunting opportunity e.g. north side of the Frenchman Hills Game Reserve	115
51	Carefully consider how to address/anticipate "crowding" problems. Suggestions: Permit controls and split seasons	112
52	Consider adjusting the pheasant season beginning and ending dates for consistency and to alleviate problems with shooting birds off the roadways.	104
53	Look at specific situations where season date adjustments would improve economics of rural areas.	101
54	Investigate a trial/pilot 3-point whitetail GMU in NE Wash.	91
55	Expand the number of Region Six GMUs open for muzzleloader hunting.	88

Rank	Issues	Total Responses
56	Carefully consider how to address/anticipate “crowding” problems. Suggestions: Consider closed areas; including amount of private lands; or whether there is a road access issue	84
56	Re-evaluate the bag limit for bearded turkeys in northeast Washington.	84
58	Increase harvest pressure on black bear in northeast Washington.	83
59	District 3 needs to increase archery participation and success. Recommendation: Take some of the antlerless modern firearm permits and allow archery for either-sex during the season.	80
60	Carefully consider how to address/anticipate “crowding” problems. Suggestions: Don’t create attractive nuisance: e.g., a general season when nothing else is open	77
61	Develop quality deer hunting opportunities in GMUs 574, 578, and 588 by increasing permits or extending the season.	73
62	In GMUs 101 and 204, extend the modern firearm deer season through the third weekend for white-tailed deer.	72
63	Increase antlerless mule deer harvest in Chelan County.	69
64	Allow muzzle-loading pistols	66
65	Address low bull escapement in GMU 530 Ryderwood.	60
66	Consider the feasibility of changing the allocation of the archery deer harvest to a Buck and Doe harvest by reallocating an equitable portion of buck permits to archery and redistributing an equal amount of antlerless permits to muzzleloaders and modern firearm hunters.	56
67	Consider making Billy Clapp Lake a quality/limited entry deer hunting opportunity and decommission part of the Stratford Game Reserve.	55
68	Consider increasing harvest success for primitive weapons in District 5.	54
69	Consider ways to improve participation and success on antlerless white-tailed deer permits.	53
70	Evaluate furbearer species harvest strategies to expand opportunities.	52
71	Add archery participation and success in District 7 and allow antlerless in the Malaga unit or GMU 251.	51
72	Reduce overall deer harvest in GMU 142 to stabilize the population.	48
73	Consider adoption of bighorn sheep, mtn goat, and moose permit levels on a three-year basis.	46
73	District 2 needs to increase archery and modern firearm opportunity, especially consider archery and modern firearm opportunity in the Turnbull Refuge. Could also provide modern firearm late season around the refuge.	46
75	Rotate the muzzleloader deer season between GMUs in the Okanogan to reduce overall hunting pressure.	45
75	Further restrict the sea duck bag limits.	45
77	Manage the Okanogan herd as two different entities, with a more liberal lowland (resident deer) harvest system and a different harvest system for the migratory portion of the population	44
77	Determine the impact of quail hunting on mountain quail in western Washington.	44
79	Address the growing nuisance deer and hunting safety concerns in the rapidly developing privately owned portions of the Methow Valley.	42
80	Stabilize deer population management and harvest strategies in GMU 564.	37
81	Look at swinging some antlerless opportunity to muzzleloader in District 6. Muzzleloader: Disabled permits, youth, senior, other?	34

Rank	Issues	Total Responses
82	Increase the bull:cow ratios in GMU 124 Spokane County.	33
82	Add some antlerless deer opportunity for muzzleloader in Chelan County.	33
84	Improve post season mule deer buck ratios in District 3 (Spokane).	31
85	Increase the effectiveness of elk damage hunts in the Boistfort area in GMU 530 and parts of 520 and 550.	30
86	The August 1st black bear opener should be retained in GMUs where fruit is produced, but consideration of changing the opening date to the Tuesday after Labor Day to avoid conflicts with other recreationists.	29
87	80) Add GMUs/opportunity for muzzleloader; look at swinging antlerless permits to muzzleloader in open GMUs in District 17.	28
88	Look for archery and muzzleloader opportunity in permit seasons in District 15.	27
88	Consider whether restrictions are necessary for the harvest of badgers.	27
90	Add modern firearm opportunity in GMU 381.	22
91	Consider antlerless opportunity in District 11 for modern firearm in GMU's 652 & 667.	20
92	In District 10, if antlerless opportunity is added to GMU 516 it should go to modern firearm.	16
92	Consider either sex modern firearm opportunity for GMU 454 in District 12.	16
94	Consider transition in District 14 to additional muzzleloader opportunity. Recommendation: Reduce archery late opportunity in 407 from any deer to any buck and provide muzzleloader permits to take antlerless during their late season.	14
95	Re-evaluate the Lake Tapps antlerless elk harvest; currently the plan calls for controlling damage, however the Muckleshoot Tribe would like to expand the elk population there to increase hunting opportunity.	13
95	Consider transition in District 12, GMUs 454 and 460 deer from archery to modern.	13
95	Consider transition in District 16 to additional muzzleloader opportunity; add antlerless muzzleloader opportunity to GMUs 603 (take a few permits from MF); add GMUs to any buck season.	13
95	Consider transition in District 17 to additional muzzleloader opportunity. Recommendation: Add antlerless permits in units as well as general season buck opportunity.	13
99	Evaluate the feasibility of adding an early modern firearm antlerless, permit season in GMU 290 (Oct 1-20).	10
100	Re-evaluate elk management in GMU 624; there are few elk in the unit, but a rapidly developing area.	7